



**High-level interactive dialogue: Accelerating implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action: the role of the Commission on the Status of Women**

**Thursday, 13 March, 10.00 am – 1.00 pm and  
Tuesday, 18 March, 3.00 – 6.00 pm**

**United Nations Headquarters – Conference Room (CR) 4**

***Concept Note***

***Overview***

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), established by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) resolution 11(II) of 21 June 1946, is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality, the rights and the empowerment of women and girls. From 1947 onward, the Commission focused on setting standards and formulating international conventions to change discriminatory legislation and foster global awareness of women's issues – such as the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women adopted in 1967, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1979 and the Optional Protocol to the Convention in 1999. It was also through a decision by the Commission that the first world conference on women took place in 1975, followed by the 1976–1985 UN Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace. Additional world

conferences took place in Copenhagen in 1980, Nairobi in 1985 and Beijing in 1995.

In 1996, through resolution 1996/6, ECOSOC expanded the Commission's mandate and decided that it should take a leading role in monitoring and reviewing progress on and problems with the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BDPfA), as well as in mainstreaming a gender perspective across UN activities. In the Pact for the Future, adopted by the General Assembly in September 2024, ECOSOC was requested to explore options for revitalizing CSW in the context of the Beijing+30 anniversary and within the framework of strengthening the work of the Council<sup>1</sup>.

As in previous Beijing+5 processes, a large number of Member States, especially Ministers for Gender Equality, heads of national machineries for gender equality, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), young people and other stakeholders are expected to attend the upcoming session, creating an opportunity for them to assess Commission's work over the past 78 years. It will be an occasion for different stakeholders to identify gaps, challenges and opportunities in the Commission's work, as well as to determine what is needed to ensure that its work supports and responds to the needs and demands of national machineries for gender equality in fulfilling the commitments made in the BDPfA and the 2030 Agenda. The high-level interactive dialogue will also be an opportunity to consult Ministers for Gender Equality and representatives from all Member States on options for revitalizing the Commission on the Status of Women, in line with the commitment outlined in the Pact for the Future.

### ***Format and participation***

The high-level interactive dialogue during the first week will be chaired by a minister from a Member State that is currently serving in the Bureau of the Commission on the Status of Women. In the second week, the high-level interactive dialogue will be chaired by the Chair of CSW, H.E. Mr. Abdulaziz M. Alwasil.

The Ministers from the Member States co-facilitating the intergovernmental process on CSW revitalization, H.E. Ms. Lesego Chombo, Minister of Youth and Gender Affairs of Botswana, and H.E. Ms. Norma Foley, Minister for Children,

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<sup>1</sup> A/RES/79/1 para 71(d)

Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth of Ireland, will moderate the high-level interactive dialogue in the first week.

The two co-facilitators of the negotiations on CSW revitalization, H.E. Ms. Gladys Mokhawa, Permanent Representative of Botswana to the United Nations, and H.E. Mr. Fergal Mythen, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations will moderate the high-level interactive dialogue during the second week.

The dialogue will start with introductory remarks by the Chair of CSW, H.E. Mr. Abdulaziz M. Alwasil, the President of ECOSOC, H.E. Mr. Robert Rae and a representative of civil society.

Following the opening remarks, ministers for gender equality and heads of national machineries for gender equality will be invited to comment on the leading questions (see below). Ministers will participate in the dialogue on a voluntary basis. No speakers' list will be kept. Initial comments will be limited to three minutes, and any follow-up comments to one minute. The dialogue will continue during the second week on 18 March with the participation of Member States, members of parliament, representatives of civil society in consultative status with ECOSOC, UN system entities, and other relevant stakeholders.

### ***Leading questions***

1. What is required to ensure that the Commission effectively supports and addresses the needs of national mechanisms for gender equality in fulfilling the commitments outlined in the BDPfA, the 2030 Agenda, and the CSW Agreed Conclusions?
2. How can the monitoring, follow-up, review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing DPfA be strengthened at CSW?
3. What new practice or way of working should be put into place to ensure that the Commission responds to new and emerging issues?
4. How differently should the commission be organized to ensure that it is fit for purpose?

### ***Outcome***

The outcome of the discussion will be in the form of a summary by the Chair of the Commission, prepared in consultation with the regional groups, through the members of the Bureau.

### ***Run of Show for the High-Level Interactive Dialogue (Week 1, 13 March 2025)***

- Chaired by a Minister from a Member State serving in the Bureau of CSW
- Co-moderated by the Minister of Youth and Gender Affairs of Botswana, H.E Ms. Lesego Chombo and the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth of Ireland, H.E. Ms. Norma Foley
- Opening remarks by:
  - The Chair of CSW69, H.E. Mr. Abdulaziz M. Alwasil
  - The President of ECOSOC, H.E. Mr. Robert Rae
  - A representative of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, NY (NGO CSW/NY), Ms. Joanne Sandler
- Interactive dialogue with ministers for gender equality and heads of national machineries for gender equality

### ***Run of Show for the Interactive Dialogue (Week 2, 18 March 2025)***

- Chaired by the Chair of CSW, H.E. Mr. Abdulaziz M. Alwasil
- Opening remarks by:
  - The Chair of CSW, H.E. Mr. Abdulaziz M. Alwasil
  - The President of ECOSOC, H.E. Mr. Robert Rae
- Co-moderated by H.E. Ms. Gladys Mokhawa, Permanent Representative of Botswana to the United Nations and H.E. Mr. Fergal Mythen, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations
- Interactive dialogue with Member States representatives, UN System, CSOs and other relevant stakeholders.



## **Interactive Dialogue on Accelerating implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action: the role of the Commission on the Status of Women**

18 March 2025 - 3.00 pm – 6.00 pm, Conference Room 4

Speakers' and Moderators' biographies

**H.E. Mr. Abdulaziz Alwasil** has been the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations since August 2022. Prior to his appointment, he served as Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN Office in Geneva for six years. With extensive experience in multilateral and human rights affairs, he has held key diplomatic roles, including Deputy Head of Mission at Saudi Arabia's Embassy in London for over three years and a posting at the Saudi Embassy in Australia.

**H.E. Ms. Gladys Makhawa** has been Botswana's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, since August 2023. Before her appointment, she served as Permanent Secretary of Botswana's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, having previously held the role of Deputy Permanent Secretary for Bilateral Diplomacy. She also has an academic background, serving as Head of the Political and Administrative Studies Department at the University of Botswana. H.E. Ms. Makhawa has been appointed as co-facilitator of the CSW Revitalization process by the President of ECOSOC in January 2025.

**H.E. Mr. Fergal Mythen** has been Ireland's Permanent Representative to the United Nations since August 2022. He played a key role in Ireland's final months on the UN Security Council and has since co-facilitated major UN negotiations, including the High-Level Political Declaration on SDG implementation and initiatives supporting Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and youth empowerment. He also serves on the Governing Council of the UN Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries. Before his UN role, H.E. Mr. Mythen held senior positions in Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs, leading efforts on the Northern Ireland peace process, EU relations, and human rights. His diplomatic career includes postings in Brussels, Rome, and Sarajevo, and he has extensive experience in peacebuilding and multilateral diplomacy. H.E. Mr. Mythen has been appointed as co-facilitator of the CSW Revitalization process by the President of ECOSOC in January 2025.

**H.E. Mr. Bob Rae** serves as the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations. He has a distinguished career in politics, law, and humanitarian work. A former Premier of Ontario and interim leader of the Liberal Party of Canada, he was elected 11 times to federal and provincial parliaments between 1978 and 2013. Before his UN appointment, he served as Canada's special envoy on humanitarian and refugee issues and worked extensively in governance, Indigenous affairs, and human rights. He has held academic positions at the University of Toronto and served as a mediator and arbitrator.